

RESOLUTION NUMBER 159
PROPOSED REGIONAL PLAN TO ADDRESS THE UNHOUSED

WHEREAS, the unhoused or homeless population issue in the City of St. Louis is an issue that deserves to be addressed with a solution that is a fair and equitable solution for the entire city and metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of the sponsors of this resolution that no-one deserves to be homeless or unhoused and that homelessness is a citywide, regional, and national problem and as such should be addresses as such; and

WHEREAS, the sponsors of this resolution support properly and fairly addressing the homeless issue in our great City; and

WHEREAS, said solutions as we see it involves programs that support the unhoused and housing and shelters for the unhoused all across our City as well as across the St. Louis Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, there are veterans, families, men, women and children that have become homeless due to various reasons; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2018 statistics from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) there are over a half a million Americans that are homeless. Those same statitics show that the homeless population has a high rate of mental illness, substance abuse and previous incarceration; and

WHEREAS, therefore unless homeless programs and housing are set up and placed in properly zoned areas, there are often external problems that plague the communities where the homeless shelters and housing are placed that require extra security and policing.; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, in the City of St. Louis under the last two Mayoral Administrations, the focus has been on relocating and housing the homeless in North St. Louis Neighborhoods using Zoning, The Board of Adjustment and other methods such as closing the Larry Rice facility which had been located near the Downtown St. Louis Public Library for many decades, closing other facilities located in other parts of the City and moving them to Neighborhoods located in North St. Louis Neighborhoods and the Northern part of Downtown, making the solution to housing the unhoused a North St. Louis solution versus a citywide or metropolitan solution and this solution is patently unfair; and

WHEREAS, there have been very little additional social services, security or policing assigned to these facilities that were moved to North St. Louis and moving or locating these facilities to North St. Louis in improperly zoned areas or without proper support is detrimental and adds stress to North St. Louis Neighborhood that has for years been denied fair City resources to maintain a healthy living environment; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that there is a move to put homeless encampments and shelter in vacant schools which would unfairly place more of the encampments in North St. Louis because the School Board has unfairly closed many schools in North St. Louis citing as one of the reasons for closing North St. Louis Schools the large number of tax abatements and TIF's the City of St. Louis has passed into law. Even as the proof shows that the most of the tax abatements and TIF's were not in North St. Louis Neighborhood but were done in downtown, the CWE and South St. Louis Neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the closing of schools and attempting to put homeless encampments and shelters in vacant schools is an example of an unfair, inequitable outcome and burden placed upon North St. Louis Neighborhoods that was not created by those living in or representing North St. Louis Neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, North St. Louis Neighborhoods have more than shouldered their responsibility for sheltering the unhoused and as such it is time for the rest of the City Neighborhoods to shoulder their responsibility regarding this citywide, regional, nationwide problem; and

WHEREAS, the sponsors of this resolution request the Directors of Public Safety and Department of Health and Welfare prepare a listing and a map of those locations where these facilities/shelters/church shelter/ popup Shelters and encampments are currently located and presented to the sponsors of this resolution. We believe the data will clearly show that that although homelessness is a citywide problem the housing solution for the homeless and unhoused has not been fair in its implementation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the sponsors of this resolution are proposing that any new or expanded facility for the unhoused in the City of St. Louis be located in Wards and Neighborhoods in other parts of the City of St. Louis that do not have unhoused facilities. This is a much fairer solution and will help to make sure that homelessness solution in the City of St. Louis is address in a fair and equitable manner.

BE IT FURTUR RESOLVED THAT this Honorable Board of Aldermen encourage the Mayor of the City of St. Louis to meet with St. Louis County Executive Sam Page, Mayors in St. Louis County and other Mayors in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area to work together to set up and develop a regional solution, partnership and /or plan to address the unhoused in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. Said Plan would then have to be adopted by the St. Louis Board of Aldermen and the St. Louis County Council to be enacted.

Introduced the 14th Day of January 2022 by:
The Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward
The Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd
The Honorable Pam Boyd, Alderwoman 27th Ward

Adopted this 14th day of January, 2022 as attested by:

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis Reed
President, Board of Aldermen